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Debtors and Debtors in Possession*

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON**

In re

EASTERDAY RANCHES, INC., *et*
al.,

Debtors.¹

Chapter 11

Lead Case No. 21-00141-WLH11
Jointly Administered

**STIPULATED PROTECTIVE
ORDER BETWEEN THE DEBTORS
AND THE OFFICIAL COMMITTEES
OF UNSECURED CREDITORS**

¹ The Debtors along with their case numbers are as follows: Easterday Ranches, Inc. (21-00141) and Easterday Farms, a Washington general partnership (21-00176).

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1
2 **1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS**

3 Discovery in these chapter 11 cases is likely to involve production of
4 confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection may be
5 warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the court to enter
6 the following Stipulated Protective Order. It does not confer blanket protection on all
7 disclosures or responses to discovery, the protection it affords from public disclosure
8 and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential
9 treatment under the applicable legal principles, and it does not presumptively entitle
10 parties to file confidential information under seal.

11 **2. "CONFIDENTIAL" MATERIAL**

12 As used in this Order, "Confidential Information" means any document, or any
13 portion thereof, which contains confidential or proprietary business, commercial,
14 research, personal, product, or financial content belonging to the producing party, and
15 which is designated as "CONFIDENTIAL" for purposes of these chapter 11 cases.
16 Confidential Information may fall within one or more of the following categories: (a)
17 information prohibited from disclosure by statute or contractual agreement; (b)
18 information that reveals trade secrets; (c) research, technical, commercial or financial
19 information that the party has maintained as confidential; (d) medical information
20 concerning any individual; (e) personal identity information; or (f) income tax returns
21 (including attached schedules and forms), W-2 forms and 1099 forms. The parties will
22 make reasonable efforts under the particular circumstances to ensure that information
23 or documents that are available to the public are not designated as Confidential
24 Information.

25 The parties acknowledge that all documents produced or otherwise provided by
26 the Debtors to either of the Committees as of the date hereof shall be deemed designated

27 **STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER**
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as “CONFIDENTIAL” for purposes of these chapter 11 cases, unless such documents are otherwise publicly available.

3. SCOPE

The protections conferred by this agreement cover not only confidential material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from confidential material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of confidential material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or presentations by parties or their counsel that might reveal confidential material.

However, the protections conferred by this agreement do not cover information that is in the public domain or becomes part of the public domain through trial or otherwise.

4. ACCESS TO AND USE OF CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

4.1 Basic Principles. A receiving party may use confidential material that is disclosed or produced by another party or by a non-party in connection with these chapter 11 cases only for attempting to settle or otherwise resolve the disputes between the parties, including the allocation of sale proceeds contemplated by the Cooperation Agreement [Docket Nos. 640 and 655]. Confidential material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the conditions described in this agreement. Confidential material must be stored and maintained by a receiving party at a location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons authorized under this agreement.

4.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the designating party, a receiving party may disclose any confidential material only to:

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1 (a) the receiving party's counsel and financial advisors of record in this
2 action, as well as employees of such counsel or financial advisors to whom it is
3 reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this case;

4 (b) experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary
5 for these chapter 11 cases and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement
6 to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);

7 (c) the court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff;

8 (d) copy or imaging services retained by counsel to assist in the
9 duplication of confidential material, provided that counsel for the party retaining the
10 copy or imaging service instructs the service not to disclose any confidential material
11 to third parties and to immediately return all originals and copies of any confidential
12 material;

13 (e) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure
14 is reasonably necessary and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to
15 Be Bound" (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the designating party or ordered by
16 the court. Pages of transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that
17 reveal confidential material must be separately bound by the court reporter and may not
18 be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this agreement;

19 (f) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or
20 a custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

21 **4.3 Filing Confidential Material.** Before filing confidential material or
22 discussing or referencing such material in court filings, the filing party shall confer with
23 the designating party, to determine whether the designating party will remove the
24 confidential designation, whether the document can be redacted, or whether a motion
25 to seal or stipulation and proposed order is warranted. During the meet and confer
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process, the designating party must identify the basis for sealing the specific confidential information at issue, and the filing party shall include this basis in its motion to seal, along with any objection to sealing the information at issue.

5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

5.1 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this agreement, or as otherwise stipulated or ordered, disclosure or discovery material that qualifies for protection under this agreement must be clearly so designated before or when the material is disclosed or produced.

a) Information in documentary form: (e.g., paper or electronic documents and deposition exhibits, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial proceedings), the designating party must affix the word “CONFIDENTIAL” to each page that contains confidential material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the producing party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

b) Testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial proceedings: the parties and any participating non-parties must identify on the record, during the deposition or other pretrial proceeding, all protected testimony, without prejudice to their right to so designate other testimony after reviewing the transcript. Any party or non-party may, within fifteen days after receiving the transcript of the deposition or other pretrial proceeding, designate portions of the transcript, or exhibits thereto, as confidential. If a party or non-party desires to protect confidential information at trial, the issue should be addressed during the pre-trial conference.

c) Other tangible items: the producing party must affix in a prominent place on the exterior of the container or containers in which the information or item is

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1 stored the word "CONFIDENTIAL." If only a portion or portions of the information or
2 item warrant protection, the producing party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the
3 protected portion(s).

4 **5.2 Inadvertent Failures to Designate.** An inadvertent failure to designate a
5 document as Confidential does not, standing alone, waive the right to so designate the
6 document. If a party designates a document as "CONFIDENTIAL" after it was initially
7 produced, the receiving party, on notification of the designation, must make a
8 reasonable effort to ensure that the document is treated in accordance with the
9 provisions of this Order. No party shall be found to have violated this Order for failing
10 to maintain the confidentiality of material during a time when that material has not been
11 designated Confidential Information, even where the failure to so designate was
12 inadvertent and where the material is subsequently designated Confidential
13 Information.

14 **6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS**

15 **6.1 Timing of Challenges.** Any party or non-party may challenge a
16 designation of confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a designating
17 party's confidentiality designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial
18 unfairness, unnecessary economic burdens, or a significant disruption or delay of the
19 litigation, a party does not waive its right to challenge a confidentiality designation by
20 electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the original designation is disclosed.

21 **6.2 Meet and Confer.** The parties must make every attempt to resolve any
22 dispute regarding confidential designations without court involvement. Any motion
23 regarding confidential designations or for a protective order must include a certification,
24 in the motion or in a declaration or affidavit, that the movant has engaged in a good
25 faith meet and confer conference with other affected parties in an effort to resolve the
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1 dispute without court action. The certification must list the date, manner, and
2 participants to the conference. A good faith effort to confer requires a face-to-face
3 meeting or a telephone conference.

4 **6.3 Judicial Intervention.** If the parties cannot resolve a challenge without
5 court intervention, the designating party may file and serve a motion to retain
6 confidentiality. The burden of persuasion in any such motion shall be on the designating
7 party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper purpose (*e.g.*, to harass or
8 impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the challenging
9 party to sanctions. All parties shall continue to maintain the material in question as
10 confidential until the court rules on the challenge.

11 **7. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED**
12 **IN OTHER LITIGATION**

13 If a party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that
14 compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as
15 “CONFIDENTIAL,” that party must:

- 16 a) promptly notify the designating party in writing and include a copy
17 of the subpoena or court order;
18 b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or
19 order to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the
20 subpoena or order is subject to this agreement. Such notification shall include a copy of
21 this agreement; and
22 c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be
23 pursued by the designating party whose confidential material may be affected.
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27 **STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER**
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1 **8. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL**

2 If a receiving party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed
3 confidential material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this
4 agreement, the receiving party must immediately (a) notify in writing the designating
5 party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized
6 copies of the protected material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized
7 disclosures were made of all the terms of this agreement, and (d) request that such
8 person or persons execute the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" that is
9 attached hereto as Exhibit A.

10 **9. LIMITATIONS ON WAIVER OF PRIVILEGE**

11 **9.1 Clawback of Inadvertent Disclosure.** This Order is entered, *inter alia*,
12 pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d). If a party or non-party that produces or
13 otherwise discloses information in connection with this case (the "Producing Party")
14 thereafter claims that such information is protected by any privilege or attorney work
15 product protection ("Disclosed Protected Information"), the disclosure of the Disclosed
16 Protected Information shall not constitute or be deemed a waiver or forfeiture of any
17 claim of privilege or work product protection that the Producing Party would otherwise
18 be entitled to assert with respect to the Disclosed Protected Information and its subject
19 matter in this proceeding or in any other federal or state proceeding. By entering this
20 Protective Order, the Court intends to provide the maximum protection allowed by Rule
21 502(d).

22 a) **Assertion of a Clawback.** Any Producing Party may request in
23 writing, the return of any Disclosed Protected Information by identifying it and stating
24 the basis for withholding such material or information from production.
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27 **STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER**
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1 b) **Clawbacks Before Deposition.** To the extent a party believes a
2 clawback made prior to a scheduled deposition impacts that deposition, the parties will
3 meet and confer and a party may seek guidance from the court if the meet and confer
4 does not reach a successful resolution.

5 c) **Clawback Process.** Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B)
6 shall govern the clawback of Disclosed Protected Information.

7 i. If a Producing Party requests the return of such Disclosed
8 Protected Information then in the custody of one or more parties, the receiving parties
9 shall—unless it contests the claim of attorney-client privilege or work product
10 protection in accordance with this Order – within ten (10) business days of receipt of
11 written notice (i) destroy or return to the Producing Party the Disclosed Protected
12 Information and all copies thereof, and (ii) provide a certification of counsel that all of
13 the Disclosed Protected Information has been returned or destroyed.

14 ii. **Challenging a Clawback.** If a party seeks to challenge a
15 Producing Party's request to return such Disclosed Protected Information, that party
16 shall notify the Producing Party or non-party that it wishes to challenge the claim of
17 privilege or work product protection and has sequestered the material until the issue can
18 be resolved. The parties agree to meet and confer regarding the claim of privilege. If, at
19 the conclusion of the meet and confer process, the parties are still not in agreement, they
20 may bring the issue to the court. A party challenging a clawback request under this
21 paragraph may rely upon Rule 502(b) and use the clawed back document and its
22 contents for the purpose of filing or responding to a motion with the court to determine
23 whether or not: (i) the document is privileged or work product; and/or (ii) any privileges
24 have been waived pursuant to Rule 502(b), only in accordance with the provisions of
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27 **STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER**
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1 Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(5)(B). For any such filing, the Disclosed Protected Information at
2 issue shall be filed under seal.

3 iii. **Presumptive Loss of Clawback After Use.** Nothing in this
4 Section 9 precludes a party who challenges the clawback of Disclosed Protected
5 Information from arguing under Federal Rule for Evidence 502(b) that the
6 circumstances under which the information was disclosed or used amounted to an
7 intentional waiver of privilege or that the party who seeks to claw back the information
8 failed to take reasonable steps to prevent disclosure or to rectify the error. Without
9 limiting the foregoing, a party seeking to claw back Disclosed Protected Information
10 under this Section shall be presumed to have lost the right to claw back under this
11 Section if (1) the Disclosed Protected Information, or document containing such
12 information, is used by any party in a deposition, hearing, or court filing in this action
13 (with the exception of a motion to determine the existence of any privilege), or
14 specifically referred to in the body of an expert report served in this action, (2) the party
15 seeking to claw back the information was represented at the deposition or hearing, was
16 a party to the motion or other proceeding in connection with which the court filing was
17 made, or was a subject of the opinions expressed in the expert report, and (3) such party
18 fails to claw back the information pursuant to this Order within 21 calendar days of its
19 use or, in the case of a document first used by a Party on an exhibit list, within the time
20 prescribed by the trial court for objections to such pretrial filings, if less than 21 days.

21 iv. The parties may stipulate to extend the time periods set forth
22 in sub-paragraphs (a) and (c).

23 v. Disclosed Protected Information that is sought to be
24 reclaimed by the parties to this case pursuant to this Order shall not be used as grounds
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1 by any third party to argue that any waiver of privilege or protection has occurred by
2 virtue of any production in this case.

3 vi. The Producing Party retains the burden of establishing the
4 privileged or protected nature of the Disclosed Protected Information. Nothing in this
5 paragraph shall limit the right of any party to petition the Court for an *in camera* review
6 of the Disclosed Protected Information.

7 **9.2 Deletion from Electronic Database.** Where a party agrees to or is ordered
8 to destroy a clawed back document, the party must instruct their e-discovery vendor to
9 delete the document entirely from their e-discovery database and delete other copies of
10 the clawed back document. To the extent that it is not technologically feasible for a
11 receiving party to destroy a clawed back document (for example, if the clawed back
12 document is part of a production provided on read-only production media such that the
13 clawed back document cannot be destroyed without destroying the entire production
14 media), the Parties will meet and confer as to an acceptable alternative approach.

15 **9.3 Receiving Party's Obligation.** Without waiving the ability to challenge a
16 clawback under this Order, a party who discovers that it may have received an
17 inadvertently disclosed or produced protected document must promptly notify the
18 disclosing or producing party. A party who is notified or discovers that it may have
19 received a protected document must comply with Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(5)(B).

20 **10. NON-TERMINATION AND RETURN OF DOCUMENTS**

21 Within 60 days after the earlier of (i) confirmation of a chapter 11 plan in these
22 chapter 11 cases or (ii) conversion of these chapter 11 cases to cases under chapter 7,
23 each receiving party must return all confidential material to the producing party,
24 including all copies, extracts and summaries thereof. Alternatively, the parties may
25 agree upon appropriate methods of destruction.

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27 **STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER**
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1 Notwithstanding this provision, counsel are entitled to retain one archival copy
2 of all documents filed with the court, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts,
3 correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and
4 consultant and expert work product, even if such materials contain confidential
5 material.

6 The confidentiality obligations imposed by this agreement shall remain in effect
7 until a designating party agrees otherwise in writing or a court orders otherwise.
8

9 **IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.**

10 Dated: May 28, 2021

BUSH KORNFELD LLP

/s/ Thomas A. Buford, III

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27 STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER
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8 *Proposed Counsel to the Official Committee of*
9 *Unsecured Creditors of Easterday Ranches, Inc.*

10 Dated: May 28, 2021

11 BUCHALTER, A PROFESSIONAL
12 CORPORATION

13 /s/ Joseph M. Welch

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26 *Counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured*
27 *Creditors of Easterday Farms, a Washington General*
28 *Partnership*

29 STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER
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1 **EXHIBIT A**

2 **ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND**

3 I, _____ [print or type full name], of
4 _____ [print or type full address], declare
5 under penalty of perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated
6 Protective Order that was issued by the United States Bankruptcy Court for the
7 Eastern District of Washington on [date] in the chapter 11 cases of *In re: Easterday*
8 *Ranches, Inc.*, Lead Case No. 21-00141 WLH11. I agree to comply with and to be
9 bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and
10 acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment
11 in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner
12 any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any
13 person or entity except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

14 I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States Bankruptcy
15 Court for the Eastern District of Washington for the purpose of enforcing the terms
16 of this Stipulated Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after
17 termination of this case.

18 Date: _____

19 City and State where sworn and signed: _____

20 Printed name: _____

21 Signature: _____

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STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER